



**Digital Commonwealth Board Meeting
Minutes
August 18, 2020**

10:03 am meeting called to order by President Justin Snow.

Present (via Zoom): Danielle Sangalang, Hans Bergmann, Jodi Goodman, Tegan Kehoe, Anton Smith, Justin Snow, Eben English, Sonia Pacheco, Evan Knight, Kate Boylan.
Absent: Rachel Jirka

Guests (Committee Chairs): Jenn Belcher, Helen Charbonneau, Andrew Begley.

July Minutes: The July minutes were **approved** as presented.

Justin noted that the Board was being joined by committee chairs for the first part of its meeting. Our goal is to improve communication between the Board and the Committees. The Board then heard reports from the Conference Committee, the Membership Committee, and the Outreach and Education Committee.

Conference Committee: Sonia Pacheco reported that the Conference Committee had secured its Keynote Speaker and had a draft schedule assembled. The theme is "The Politics of Collections," the date is April 13th, the conference will be virtual, and a call for papers will go out soon.

Membership Committee: Helen Charbonneau reported that the Membership and Outreach and Education committees were working together on the September 23 "Dating Photographs" workshop and the "Digital Genealogy" workshop in October. The two committees are sharing funding for these events. (Your secretary notes that the Board **approved** an outlay of \$100 to supplement the budget for the September workshop). The Board looks forward to continued discussions between the chairs of Membership and Outreach and Education and President Snow to better understand the charges of the two committees. All agreed that the pandemic has created more need for digital workshops and events, even if that meant an increase in our expenditures.

Education and Outreach Committee: Andrew Begley reported for the Committee that indeed the two committees were working together on the two workshops and on clarifying their different charges. Discussion surrounded the issues of good communication. There was brief discussion of speaker fees, including the necessity of sometimes reminding presenters unused to asking for fees that they could ask for them. The Education subcommittee was continuing its work on "subject specific primary source" pages and other ways for teachers and students to use the archive.

The committee members not on the Board then left the meeting.

Membership and Financials Report: Tegan Kehoe noted that membership was approximately level from last year, that there was no cause for unusual concern despite the pandemic. In budgets, she mentioned the need for rationalizing budgets, and, again, emphasized the need for better communication about budgets.

DPLA Report: Justin Snow reported that there was very little accomplished at recent DPLA meetings.

Repository Committee Report: Eben reported that the Committee had continued the discussion of how to present the problematic content on the Digital Commonwealth site. We certainly need a statement of values as well as a warning or opt-in at the item level. This important issue will be discussed further. Kate Boylan mentioned that Wheaton College was working on these issues across the units of the college. All agreed that problematic content should be “contextualized,” but the difficult issue is how much setting a context might impose too heavy a curatorial hand.

Boston Public Library Report: Eben English said there was not a lot to report except that the Library is slowly moving back into business. The photographers are back, but so far everything is slow. Baby steps.

Black Lives Matter Statement: The Board continued discussing the implications of our Black Lives Matter statement approved by the Board in June. Discussion ensued about how to enact our goals. There was continued consensus that Digital Commonwealth should work with organizations already working with groups underrepresented in digital archives. The Board had agreed at the July meeting to start with a Survey, and Tegan Kehoe presented a draft to the Board. Discussion ensued about how to distribute it so that individuals not currently connected with Digital Commonwealth would get it. A strong argument was made for interviewing people individually – so, frankly, they would complete the survey. Otherwise they might not.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:52 am.

Next Meeting: **September 15, 2020**. 10-12 am. (Zoom)

Hans Bergmann
Secretary